
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

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ALUMINUM IN MARCH 1997

Domestic primary aluminum production in March was 307,143 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 9,908 tons, the same level as that of the previous month and 1% above the rate for March 1996.

The monthly average U.S. spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 76.4 cents per pound in February to 79.6 cents per pound in March, according to *Platt's Metals Week*. According to *American Metal Market*, the buying price range for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap held steady at 58 to 60 cents per pound during March. According to *Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report*, the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's was 61.5 cents per pound.

1996 UBC Recycling Rate

According to data jointly released by the Aluminum Association Inc., the Can Manufacturers Institute, and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc., 62.8 billion aluminum beverage cans were recycled in the United States during 1996. The recycling rate, based on the number of cans shipped during the year, was 63.5%, a slight increase from the 62.2% recycling rate in 1995. According to the organizations' press release, aluminum beverage cans produced domestically in 1996 had an average 51.6% post-consumer recycled content, the highest recycled content percentage of all packaging

materials (Aluminum Association Inc., 1997).

National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Sale

On April 17, 1996, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced the results of its first sale of aluminum metal from the NDS since 1976. The DLA sold 8,967 tons (9,885 short tons) of aluminum metal for a total of \$13.3 million. Aluminum will be offered for sale on the first Tuesday of each month (Defense Logistics Agency, 1997).

Update

The monthly average spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to 75.6 cents per pound in April. The *American Metal Market* buying price range for aluminum UBC scrap increased to 59 to 61 cents per pound at the beginning of April. In the middle of the month, the price range dropped to 56 to 58 cents per pound where it remained through April 23.

References Cited

- Aluminum Association Inc., 1997, Aluminum can recycling rate rebounds: Washington, DC, The Aluminum Association News, April 8, 1997, 3 p.
Defense Logistics Agency, 1997, Stockpile accepts aluminum bids: Ft. Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency news release, April 17, 1997, 2 p.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary recovery 2/				Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks end of period 4/
	Primary production	New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1996: p/	3,577	1,770	1,550	3,320	1,910	498	2,410	9,300	1,830
1996:									
March	303	151	125	276	148	43	191	769	2,010
April	293	151	134	285	188	41	229	807	2,020
May	303	152	136	287	176	42	217	808	1,960
June	293	145	122	267	169	40	210	769	1,980
July	301	145	130	274	139	45	184	760	1,960
August	302	143	138	281	149	45	194	777	1,910
September	292	144	130	275	136	43	179	746	1,890
October	304	156	137	293	170	45	215	812	1,840
November	295	143	130	273	147	41	188	756	1,830
December	305	147	128	276	180	39	219	800 r/	1,830
Jan.-Mar.	888	442	365	806	455	116	571	2,270	2,010
1997:									
January	305	158	130	288	145	42	188	781	1,840
February	277	151 r/	124	276	147	37	184	737	1,840
March	307	158	135	293	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan.-Mar.	890	468	389	857	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1996: p/	1,490	1,210	1,410	1,250	815	752	107	98	7	7	3,830	3,320
1996:												
March	123	100	120	107	67	62	8	7	(2/)	(2/)	318	276
April	124	101	132	117	63	58	9	9	1	1	329	285
May	124	101	129	114	69	63	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	331	287
June	124	101	108	96	66	61	9	8	1	1	308	267
July	124	101	110	97	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	274
August	125	102	123	109	66	61	9	8	1	1	324	281
September	125	101	110	98	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	275
October	125	102	125	111	77	71	9	9	1	1	337	293
November	125	101	113	101	68	63	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	315	273
December	124	100 r/	113	100	72	67	9	8	1	1	318	276
Jan.-Mar.	370	300	345	308	188	173	26	24	1	1	931	806
1997:												
January	122	99	126	112	75	70 r/	7	6	1	1	331	288
February	121	98	116	103	74	68	6 r/	6	(2/)	(2/)	318	276
March	122	98	132	116	78	72	6	6	(2/)	(2/)	339	293
Jan.-Mar.	365	296	374	332	228	210	20	18	1	1	988	857

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MARCH 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	101,000	122,000	82,000	98,400
Integrated aluminum companies	132,000	132,000	116,000	116,000
Independent mill fabricators	65,300	78,400	60,400	72,400
Foundries	5,410	6,490	4,900	5,880
Other consumers	299	359	299	359
Total	304,000	339,000	264,000	293,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN
MARCH 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	28,800	81,600	88,100	22,300
Can stock clippings	8,090	19,600	21,200	6,470
Other clippings	6,680 r/	15,100	15,200	6,640
Borings and turnings	4,580	17,800	17,700	4,740
Dross and skimmings	3,200	19,500	19,500	3,200
Total new scrap	51,300	154,000	162,000	43,300
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	21,500	51,100	50,800	21,700
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,080	1,040	1,030	1,080
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	34,200	79,800	85,200	28,800
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	W	W	W	W
Other	984	4,690	4,700	976
Total old scrap	57,700	137,000	142,000	52,600
Sweated pig	2,650 r/	1,130	1,090	2,680
Total all classes	112,000 r/	291,000	304,000	98,600

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES IN MARCH 1997 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,650	4,220	3,960	3,900
380 and variations	13,100	39,300	39,600	12,800
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	13,000	966	966	13,000
No. 319 and variations	3,630	6,020	6,050	3,600
F-132 alloy and variations	1,830 r/	2,750	2,730	1,850
Al-Zn alloys	453	118	118	453
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	96	168	168	96
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	60	77	77	60
Other 3/	2,680	3,320	3,630	2,370
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	4,690	14,300	14,300	4,670
Total all alloys	43,200	71,200	71,600	42,800
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	3,700	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	5,080	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	385	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 4/	XX	62,100	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

4/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Feb.	Jan. - Feb.	Feb.	Jan. - Feb.	Feb.	Jan. - Feb.	Feb.	Jan. - Feb.
Argentina	1,020	1,810	16	16	1,020	1,080	2,050	2,910
Australia	125	425	27	52	75	198	227	674
Bahrain	--	--	245	321	--	--	245	321
Belgium	18	18	404	889	64	64	486	971
Brazil	--	--	12	16	--	--	12	16
Canada	115,000	231,000	23,300	48,800	18,400	37,700	157,000	317,000
Croatia	--	--	1	17	--	--	1	17
Czech Republic	--	--	3	11	--	--	3	11
France	23	63	562	1,210	402	824	987	2,100
Germany	7	39	2,230	4,030	314	947	2,550	5,020
Hungary	--	--	103	103	--	--	103	103
Italy	--	--	219	577	--	--	219	577
Japan	49	86	1,180	2,490	23	122	1,250	2,700
Korea, Republic of	--	16	8	19	338	493	346	528
Mexico	178	353	887	1,870	6,400	12,600	7,470	14,900
Netherlands	1	2	370	649	453	550	824	1,200
Norway	38	76	37	237	--	--	75	313
Russia	20,600	33,000	257	3,050	--	473	20,900	36,600
Slovakia	39	77	--	--	--	--	39	77
Slovenia	--	--	359	670	--	--	359	670
South Africa	18	2,620	255	674	112	127	386	3,420
Spain	--	--	746	1,830	--	--	746	1,830
Sweden	--	--	234	488	111	133	344	621
Switzerland	--	--	104	399	--	--	104	399
Ukraine	--	395	19	19	--	--	19	414
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	202	323	202	323
United Kingdom	103	104	1,300	2,270	1,570	2,170	2,970	4,540
Venezuela	9,800	22,400	2,100	4,670	1,530	3,040	13,400	30,100
Other	--	(2/)	1,840	3,660	4,190	8,450	6,040	12,100
Total	147,000	293,000	36,800	79,000	35,200	69,300	219,000	441,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Feb.	Jan. - Feb.	Feb.	Jan. - Feb.	Feb.	Jan. - Feb.	Feb.	Jan. - Feb.
Australia	53	55	439	718	--	--	492	773
Belgium	7	7	475	1,040	--	42	483	1,090
Brazil	1	4	5,080	11,900	1	1	5,080	11,900
Canada	11,200	24,500	35,500	69,300	6,680	13,200	53,400	107,000
China	42	430	3,360	5,540	2,770	5,340	6,170	11,300
Czech Republic	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Dominican Republic	--	--	288	292	--	--	288	292
Estonia	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	3
France	6	21	285	594	--	--	291	615
Germany	74	142	1,030	1,580	21	24	1,130	1,750
Hong Kong	250	346	1,520	2,650	2,090	3,910	3,850	6,900
India	--	--	13	23	93	104	106	127
Israel	2	2	51	77	--	--	52	79
Italy	22	22	47	64	--	--	68	86
Japan	6,620	18,200	3,350	5,720	3,120	6,750	13,100	30,600
Korea, Republic of	1,540	2,970	1,750	4,320	2,740	6,290	6,030	13,600
Malaysia	--	(2/)	723	1,030	6	27	729	1,050
Mexico	4,130	7,000	9,360	17,800	2,670	4,460	16,100	29,300
Netherlands	--	18	73	143	--	--	73	161
Russia	--	--	4	4	--	--	4	4
Saudi Arabia	--	--	1,320	2,400	--	--	1,320	2,400
Singapore	23	42	419	565	--	--	442	607
Spain	--	1	317	498	--	18	317	516
Sweden	--	--	8	13	--	--	8	13
Taiwan	924	1,490	627	1,440	5,730	10,000	7,280	13,000
Thailand	340	541	465	1,100	120	264	926	1,910
United Kingdom	66	135	1,430	2,900	783	794	2,280	3,830
Venezuela	--	48	937	1,650	19	37	956	1,740
Other	193	557	5,620	12,100	292	510	6,110	13,200
Total	25,500	56,500	74,500	146,000	27,100	51,900	127,000	254,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.